

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014  
DEPARTMENT OF AGING, 1440 TANEY AVE., FREDERICK, MD**

PRESENT: Mary Beachley, Don Cilla, Ernell Graham, Commissioner David Gray, Carol Haag, Tom Lawler, Katie Rhinehart, Virginia Skelley, Cynthia White

EXCUSED: Elizabeth Chung, Ann Holiday, Mayor Randy McClement, Sue Ramsburg, Pat Rosensteel

GUESTS: Carol Krimm, Joy Onley, RaeAnn Butler

STAFF PRESENT: Kitty Devilbiss, Carolyn True

Chair Carol Haag called the meeting to order at 1PM and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves and offer a brief comment about their background to allow Commission on Aging (COA) members an opportunity to learn more about their colleagues.

**Action on the Agenda** – Ms. Haag asked that a brief discussion about the Elder Expo occur during New Business.

**Approval of the Minutes** – Upon a motion by Ginny Skelley, seconded by Don Cilla, the minutes of July 14, 2014 was unanimously approved.

**Elected Officials Comments:** Commissioner Gray reminded the COA to ask questions of the candidates about their position on older adult issues. The County Council will have a great impact on the direction of the County. Mayor McClement was not in attendance but sent his regrets.

**Mission Moment** – Director Nancy Norris provided an informational overview about the Transit agency and information about new initiatives including the taxi voucher program and new shelters that will be constructed at 40 different locations that are considered the busiest stops in the system. Advertising will be sold for placement on the shelters. A delay in the implementation of the taxi voucher program has occurred due to a procurement issue. Ms. Norris had hoped to piggyback a Montgomery County contract and use the same vendor to administer the program. However, since Montgomery County did not advertise the bid (because only local funding was used), the Maryland Transit Administration requested that Frederick County advertise the bid. The state will contribute \$150,000 and the County will provide \$50,000. Once the first \$50,000 has been expended on the program, Ms. Norris will report the results of initiative to the Board of County Commissioners to ensure the maximum benefit of the program is being realized or if “tweaking” is needed. Taxi fares are set by the Taxi Cab Commission with the City of Frederick and riders can choose the taxi company they wish to use under this program. In order to use the taxi voucher, riders must register with Transit and be a user of the transit system for 6 months prior to using a taxi voucher. One company, Bowie Cab has purchased a handicap accessible vehicle and there are state funds that will help vendors purchase accessible vehicles.

Ms. Norris noted that due to staffing changes and requirements by the Board of County Commissioners, passenger trips are lower than in previous years and some requests for service have been turned down. Vacant positions are required to be filled by part-time staff who may not be as available as a full-time person.

Ms. Norris also noted the national problem of providing dialysis transportation to patients. These persons are on a regular schedule to receive transportation which necessitates that trips may need to begin around 4AM. This transportation is costly yet dialysis centers have been unwilling to provide any

funding to transportation programs. The federal Safe Harbor Act specifically states that transportation is a service to be provided but dialysis centers across the country do not read the legislation the same way. The Transportation Association of Maryland (TAM) has become involved in the issue and hopes to educate legislators about the problem in Maryland. Frederick County has made the decision to continue to provide transportation to existing dialysis riders but any new persons must schedule their trip in advance as do other riders. State funding has been flat for the last 10 years and there is no federal funding in this dialysis program. The County contributes over \$600,000.

In response to questions posed by members of the COA, Ms. Norris indicated that several years ago, non-profit agencies and the County attempted to work together to provide transportation and make efficient use of all vehicles. However, it became complicated due to issues such as risk management, using volunteers v. paid staff, fueling, scheduling and insurance. Accessibility issues continue to be an issue for accessing transportation, including the use of sidewalks to access a bus stop. After an Urbana citizen and the state became involved, accessible sidewalks and easier access will be constructed in Frederick County. This initiative is estimated to cost \$10 million over 10 years. Ms. Norris stated that the COA could be useful to the transit agency by helping to advocate for additional funding. Transit has guidelines that developers can use when building a community where transportation service is planned. These guidelines help ensure that the community is built to accommodate large buses, turn radiuses and shelters. Ms. Norris indicated that The Freedom Center offers travel training for persons with a disability in order to help them learn how to navigate the transit system. There is also a video on Transit's website that helps educate persons about it.

#### **Business Task Force – Carol Krimm**

Ms. Krimm stated that this subcommittee met in August and is partnering with the Chamber of Commerce. The discussion at the meeting centered on raising awareness and offering education about senior needs. They would like to reach out to employers to help them understand the needs their employees may face related to senior needs in the family. One subcommittee member, Eileen McLaughlin and Ms. Krimm met with Chamber CEO, Elizabeth Cromwell who assigned staff member Jenny Morgan, Wellness Coordinator for the Chamber to assist the subcommittee. Chamber member, Justin Saltzman, who represents young professionals, will also assist. The next task force meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 3, 2014 at 11 AM. Tom Lawler will assume chairman duties of this task force. Eileen McLaughlin from Right at Home will be co- chairperson.

#### **Bylaws Update – Carol Haag**

Carol Haag, Don Cilla and Ginny Skelley agreed to review the COA bylaws since they have not been updated since 2007. The definition of a provider must be reviewed as well as consideration about the percentage of providers that can be represented on the Commission.

#### **Strategic Plan – Don Cilla**

Following the July COA meeting, a small group gathered to review the Vision and Mission statements. The Vision statement remained as initially voted upon, however discussion at the subcommittee meeting centered on the Mission statement and goals. Katie Rhinehart suggested that a comma be added between County and Maryland in the proposed Mission statement and Carolyn True suggested that the Maryland Department of Aging or reference to the state be added in item 1(d) of the proposed goals. Upon a motion by Ginny Skelley, seconded by Tom Lawler, the Mission statement and goals with suggested changes were unanimously accepted. The COA will have a discussion at the October 2014 COA meeting to decide how to implement the goals.

### **Candidate Forum – Carol Haag**

It is too late for the COA to do anything in the way of a candidate forum however; the COA could consider offering an educational forum about aging issues to those who win their respective races. Carolyn True stated that the Commission for Women will hold a candidates forum on October 15 at the Department of Aging. They have not settled on a format or exact times (it will be in the evening) for their event but have agreed to ask the candidates questions related to older adult issues in addition to the questions they will be asking the candidates about women and children's issues. Carolyn suggested that a question about caregiving might be appropriate since the issue spans the lifetime. Mary Beachley suggested that questions should be pointed and direct, and specifically target affordable housing and transportation. It is important that the COA have a definition in mind for what is meant by the word, "affordable." This word has a different meaning depending on who is using it or in what regional location it is referenced.

### **New Business**

A signup sheet for the Elder Expo was passed around to members. Several people signed up but there are still time slot vacancies. Katie Rhinehart will update the COA brochure and Carol Haag will update the table display. RaeAnn Butler offered to set up the COA table on the day of the Expo, (October 1, 2014). Thanks are extended to Heartfields Assisted Living for their willingness to print the brochure.

### **REPORTS**

#### *Nominations – Katie Rhinehart*

Katie reviewed the 4 applications for COA membership. Upon a motion by Katie Rhinehart, seconded by Ginny Skelley, the COA unanimously recommended approval of the applications from:

- Joy Hall-Onley
- Roberta (Bobbie) Speace
- John Hannan
- Dr. John Brown

The recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration during their meeting on September 25, 2014.

There were no reports for *Legislative, State COA* or the *Adult Public Disabled Review Board*. Ann Holiday was attending her first meeting of the latter board which occurred during today's COA meeting. Ernell Graham updated the COA about the July Partners in Care meeting.

Carolyn True distributed a summary document about the area plan for FY'15. Information and instructions were received by the Department for completion of the area plan in early August. The Maryland Department of Aging requested that the area plan be completed and returned by August 29, 2014. However, the Department could not meet this deadline because of the need for input from the COA (which did not meet in August) and approval by the County Commissioners. The area plan is the Department's grant application to the state which outlines how funding will be spent and estimates the number of people who will be served during the fiscal year. This is the final update of the area plan. Next year, it will be completely re-written and a public hearing will be necessary. Carolyn will share the area plan draft with Commission members once it is completed. This is the COA's opportunity to include items that should be priorities for the Department and the County. Ginny Skelley noted that the inclusion of the needs assessment (see number 5 below) is sufficiently broad to account for work of the COA, the Department and its partners.

The area plan is scheduled for approval by the Commissioners on September 25, 2014. The Chair of the COA will be asked to sign the document.

Initiatives the Department plans to undertake include:

1. Exploration and possible implementation of a sliding fee scale for the Meals on Wheels program.
2. Via assistance from the County Procurement office, request information from vendors and contractors for ideas on how to provide respite, handyman services, mental health assistance so that older adults can continue to age in place in the community with supports.
3. Explore the feasibility of a partnership with the local hospital to use Title III-D in the Care Transitions program.
4. Continue to investigate alternative funding sources since federal funding is declining and some revenue streams will be eliminated in 2 years.
5. Continue to work with community partners to implement recommendations contained in the needs assessment.

The budget breakdown is as follows:

<u>Budget Information</u>		<u>As a percent of total budget</u>
County Funds	\$1,571,620	54%
Federal	\$ 857,161	30%
State	\$ 365,447	13%
Estimated Contributions	\$ 95,200	3%
Misc. Revenue	\$ 7,250	2%
Donations	\$ 4,500	2%
DHMH	\$ 1,500	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,902,678</b>	102% (Rounding)

#### **Announcements**

Don Cilla and Tom Lawler will represent the COA at the state Commission meeting which will be held on September 10 at Hagerstown Community College. Bernadine Hoffman, from Crestwood Village will also attend. The theme of the meeting is "building villages" and Crestwood is interested in learning more about and perhaps implementing the concept.

Carol Haag requested that Kathy Schey come to the November meeting to discuss the Maryland Access Point (MAP) program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ginny Skelley, seconded by Don Cilla at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Carolyn B. True, Director  
On behalf of Susan Ramsburg